

INVESTIGATION: REHAB RIVIERA, PART 3

ARE REHAB CENTERS ADDING
TO HOMELESSNESS?

Where recovery programs are plentiful, some see connection



After shooting heroin behind a Costa Mesa restaurant, Sergius Harty, 25, ponders his next move. He needs to do drugs at least every six hours or he starts having withdrawals, he says.

By Jordan Graham
jgraham@scng.com
@JordanSGraham on Twitter

Thirteen-hundred miles from his rural Arkansas home, Tyler McCollough paces across a motel parking lot, veins bulging at his temple, anxiously gripping himself as the pangs of heroin withdrawal intensify.

Newly homeless and dope sick on the streets of Costa Mesa, the 25-year-old says he's thinking about stealing from a nearby store — anything to scrounge up the cash he needs to get drugs.

Hours later, relaxing in an In-N-Out booth, he's calmer, he says a friend gave him a hit of heroin. He also wonders aloud how he came to be living on the streets, so far from the place he used to call home.

Migration stories similar to McCollough's are repeated with varying fre-



Signs of homelessness can be seen throughout Dana Point, where the fortunate and the unfortunate often clash.

quency across pockets of Southern California.

Searching the web earlier this year for a rehab program, he says he was lured to the region by an offer of a complimentary plane ticket and free treatment. He left a construction job and work on his

family's horse ranch for a recovery program near the ocean in Orange County.

Five months later, when his insurance ran out, McCollough says he was discharged to the streets, where he remained for at least two months. He says he commits crimes to feed his habit.

"I sell drugs. And I steal things and sell them."

Homelessness has surged in Southern California in recent years, a problem that has confounded officials and motivated local leaders — including Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Orange County Board of Supervisors. Millions of dollars have been spent addressing the issue and identifying its causes.

But one aspect of the problem hasn't been widely examined: What connection, if any, exists between the outsized number of rehab centers in Southern California and the region's fast-growing home-

THE SERIES

Earlier this year, the Southern California News Group published Rehab Riviera, a three-part investigation about fraud, bad medicine and the victims in the region's booming drug and alcohol recovery industry. Since then, we have looked deeper, finding more problems in the rehab business.

SUNDAY | Death in Detox: A loophole allows people with no medical training to charge big money to treat patients weaning themselves off drugs.

MONDAY | Urine Inc: Allegations against a company that billed millions of dollars for urine testing expose flaws in state rehab laws.

TODAY | Welcome homeless: Homelessness in Southern California has exploded in recent years. So has the rehab business. Some people see a link.

TO READ THE FULL SERIES: OCREGISTER.COM/REHAB-RIVIERA

L.A. LAKERS

Kobe Bryant's numbers retired

The Los Angeles Lakers and their fans celebrated Kobe Bryant on Monday night by retiring not just one jersey, but two. The numbers 8 and 24 were raised to the rafters at halftime in recognition of Bryant's career, which included five NBA championships with the Lakers.

Bryant entered Staples Center guiding his 1-year-old daughter, Bianka, in a stroller, while outside the arena fans enjoyed Kobeland, which included a Ferris wheel. The last time Bryant made an appearance at Staples was his farewell game in April, when he scored 60 points.

When pushed, Bryant said that if he had to choose just one number, it would have been 24, which he wore for the second half of his career, when he faced challenges that came with age and injury.

For more on the ceremony, read Lakers beat writer Bill Oram and NBA columnist Mark Heisler in the sports section.



Kobe Bryant walks off the court at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Monday after a ceremony to retire both of the numbers he wore as a Los Angeles Laker.

TRANSPORTATION

Amtrak train hurtles off bridge

At least 3 killed, more than 100 hurt near Tacoma

By Rachel La Corte and Gillian Flaccus
The Associated Press

DUPONT, WASH. » An Amtrak train making the first-ever run along a faster new route hurtled off an overpass south of Seattle on Monday and spilled some of its cars onto the highway below, killing at least three people, injuring more than 100 and crushing two vehicles, authorities said.

Attention quickly turned to the train's speed. A website that maps location and speed using data from Amtrak's train tracker app showed the train was going 81.1 mph about a quarter of a mile from the point where it derailed, where the speed limit is significantly lower.

Seventy-seven passengers and seven crew members were aboard when the train derailed and pulled 13 cars off the tracks. Authorities said there were three confirmed deaths and more than a dozen people with critical or serious injuries.

About two hours after the accident, a U.S. official who with others was briefed on the investigation said he was told at least six people were killed. No additional briefings were provided by late

TRAIN » PAGE 4



Cars from an Amtrak train that derailed above lie spilled onto I-5 alongside smashed vehicles Monday in DuPont, Wash.

TAX OVERHAUL

Democrats cry foul over real estate provision

Republicans rejected a report that Sen. Bob Corker stealthily tucked an item into the tax package to benefit himself financially. NEWS 3

COURTS

Federal judge retires after claims of misconduct

Judge Alex Kozinski of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Monday that a battle over the accusations would not be good for the judiciary. NEWS 5

REAL ESTATE

Property tax deduction could be lowered for 270,000 SoCal owners.

Business » News 11

HISTORY

Hobie Surf Shops launch mini-museum exhibits in stores in O.C.

Local » 1

WEATHER

66/49 70/44
Coast Inland
Full weather forecast » LOCAL 10

INDEX

Abby.....B8 Deaths.....B5
Business..A10-11 Lottery.....A2
Comics.....B7 Opinion.....B9

Customer Service: 714-796-7777